

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 783
By Sontany

A RESOLUTION to welcome the 14th annual ATHENA Celebration to the Parthenon in Nashville, Tennessee on March 25, 2004 and to honor the ATHENA Foundation for its invaluable work in creating leadership opportunities for women within this State.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly welcomes the opportunity to support gender equity in all facets of society and is supportive of the efforts of those organizations which work to create leadership opportunities for women, thus permitting society to benefit from the particular characteristics and qualities that women bring to leadership in business, government, the arts and sciences, or any other realm of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the ATHENA Foundation is one such dynamic organization, which, since 1982, has worked with hundreds of communities to encourage and acknowledge women in leadership positions; and

WHEREAS, the ATHENA Leadership Model calls for a celebration of the vitality, robustness, and possibilities of life, which allow a sense of pleasure in work and accomplishments; ATHENA leaders find expression and a renewal of their energies in the arts and in nature; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2004, the 14th Annual ATHENA Celebration will be held at the Parthenon in Nashville, an event that will be commemorated with much anticipation during the National Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, the annual ATHENA Celebration is the premier event recognizing and encouraging the achievements of women in business and their professions and is held in over 350 cities around the world; only in Nashville is the event coordinated as a collaborative effort among the city's most distinguished women's organizations, 35 of whom are expected to

participate this year, representing the rich diversity in Nashville and demonstrating an intense commitment to improving the community in which we all live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, the ATHENA Award Program provides scholarships for graduating high school seniors and nontraditional students returning to further their education. The Nashville ATHENA Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$35,000 in scholarships since 1993, and has provided vast opportunities for schools and the community to interact with, and learn from, women of achievement; and

WHEREAS, notable women of achievement who are former recipients of the ATHENA Award include such local community leaders as Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey, Margaret L. Behm, Mary Anne Jackson, Inez Crutchfield, Linda B. Rudolph, Ph.D., Sarah Hamilton Sell, M.D., Sheriff Gayle Ray, Betty Chiles Nixon, Carol L. McCoy, Deborah C. German, M.D., Ronnie Steingerg, Ph.D., Chief Deborah Faulkner, Ed.D., and Patricia Pierce; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to offer its support and approbation to such an organization whose goal includes the complete liberation of the talents of over half of our nation's and the world's population and to unfetter the potential of women everywhere; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend the ATHENA Foundation for its laudable pursuit of its goal of creating leadership opportunities for women, thank them for their unfailing dedication to that cause, and offer our heartiest welcome to the 14th Annual ATHENA Celebration to be held in Nashville on March 25, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.